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PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 52nd MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 3 November 1994, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. BUTLER (Australia)

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94-82026 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.40 p.m.

ENERGY (E/1994/25 and Corr.1)

Report of the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development (E/1994/25 and Corr.1)

The PRESIDENT drew attention to the two draft decisions recommended for adoption by the Council in paragraph 2 of the Committee's report (E/1994/25 and Corr.1.

Mr. AHMIA (Observer for Algeria), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that following consultations, a consensus had been reached on the text of draft decision I entitled "Convening of a session of the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development in 1995". The words "within existing resources" should be inserted in the second line of paragraph (a) between the words "hold" and "a session".

Draft decision I, as orally amended, was adopted.

Mr. AHMIA (Observer for Algeria), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that following consultations, it had been agreed that draft decision II entitled "Provisional agenda and documentation for the second session of the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development" should be adopted as it stood.

Draft decision II was adopted.

NATURAL RESOURCES (E/1994/26 and Corr.1) (continued)

Report of the Committee on Natural Resources (E/1994/26 and Corr.1)

The PRESIDENT drew attention to the draft decision recommended for adoption by the Council in paragraph 2 of the Committee's report.

Mr. AHMIA (Observer for Algeria), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that following consultations had been agreed it that paragraphs (a) through (d) should be deleted.

The draft decision, as amended, was adopted.

Mr. SAHRAOUI (Observer for Algeria) introduced a new draft decision, the text of which read as follow:

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Reaffirms the importance of the continuing work conducted by the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development in accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/235;

"Takes note with appreciation of the recommendations as contained in document E/1994/26 and in document E/1994/25 and invites Member States to consider, as appropriate, these recommendations;

(Mr. Sahraoui)

"Requests the Secretary-General to provide the necessary technical and substantive support to the meetings of the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development;

"Invites Member States to present as soon as possible their views on the format in which the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development should present their work and requests the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the basis of these views by the next substantive session of ECOSOC."

He said that it replaced the draft resolutions contained in the reports of the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development, on which there had been no consensus, and the deleted paragraphs of the decision just adopted.

Draft decision entitled Committee on Natural Resources and Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development

Draft decision E/1994/L. was adopted.

Mr. SAHRAOUI (Observer for Algeria), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, expressed regret that the Council had been unable to take a clear political decision on the recommendation contained in documents E/1994/25 and 26. The Group of 77 and China reaffirmed this support for the mandates of the two Committees as described in General Assembly resolution 46/235, and their position regarding the process of restructuring the United Nations in the economic and social fields, stressing that the intergovernmental character of United nations organs should be strengthened. It was interesting to note that just two years after the Committees had been transformed from intergovernmental bodies into expert committees, their mandates were being called into question.

Mr. SINGH (India) supported the statement by the representative of Algeria and expressed concern that the Council had been unable to advance the decision-making process. Both reports had been substantive and contained a number of concrete recommendations. The way in which the United Nations system would be able to incorporate the recommendations of expert bodies into the intergovernmental process must be addressed.

Mr. RUNGE (Germany), speaking on behalf of the European Union and Austria, Finland, Norway and Sweden, expressed support for the valuable work of the two Committees, and regret of the fact that the resolutions they had proposed had not been adopted. Stressing the central role of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in the field of natural resources, he said that the work of the

(Mr. Runge, Germany)

Committee on Natural Resources should be closely related to the work of those bodies. The substantive contribution the expert committee could make to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development was highly appreciated.

Noting that the Committee on Natural Resources had asked for many reports and studies, he said that only those relating to priorities for discussion within the Commission should be produced. The Committees should receive clearer guidance from the Council concerning the format of their advice and recommendations in order to facilitate well-informed and fully considered decisions on those recommendations. While respecting the independence of the experts, the Council must offer procedural guidance. In view of the contribution the Committee on Natural Resources could make to the Commission on Sustainable Development, the European Union accepted the decision to hold a supplementary session of the Committee in early 1995 on an exceptional basis, but reaffirmed the need to maintain the biennialization of the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council.

Ms. IRISH (Canada) said that better use should be made of the Council in providing linkages within the United Nations economic and social system and in seeing that the work programmes of expert and subsidiary bodies were harmonized. Regarding the report of the Committee on natural Resources, some streamlining of the text could have resulted in a clearer decision.

To establish a new energy institution for energy and sustainable development would be a duplication of effort; her delegation believed that the existing mechanisms were adequate and could be expanded to meet those needs. In the area of technology transfer, Agenda 21 continued to offer guidelines for action on preferential access. Her delegation was disappointed by the absence of any reference to nuclear power in the report of the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development.

Guidelines for future work would be helpful in order to make the decisions of the expert bodies more useful. The question of their mandate should be addressed in the context of the Agenda for Development.

Ms. WILLIAMS-MANIGAULT (United States of America) said that her delegation appreciated the flexibility shown in reaching consensus, which had demonstrated again the relevance of political support those committees and the critical role of the intergovernmental process when considering reports and providing guidance to expert bodies.

MERGER OF THE INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN AND THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT FUND FOR WOMEN (continued) (A/49/217-E/1994/103, A/49/365-E/1994/119; E/1994/68 and Corr.1; E/1994/L.50; E/1994/CRP.1)

Draft resolution E/1994/L.50: Merger of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the United Nations Development Fund for Women

Mr. AHMIA (Observer for Algeria), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that a consensus had been reached on a text and that some amendments had been made to the original draft resolution.

The following preambular paragraph should be inserted between the penultimate and last preambular paragraphs:

"Stressing the urgent need for appropriate leadership and staffing for the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women which should be addressed as a matter of priority by the Secretary-General,"

Paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 should be replaced by the following new paragraphs:

"3. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Economic and Social Council, through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, an updated report which will contain, inter alia, the information requested in Economic and Social Council decision 1993/235 and paragraphs 2 and 3 of General Assembly resolution 48/111, as well as the additional information requested by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

"4. Further requests the Secretary-General to make this report also available to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-ninth session;

"5. Recommends to the General Assembly that the Council re-examine the issue, at the resumed session that is tot take place after the Fourth World Conference on Women and before the Third Committee of the General Assembly takes up the agenda item on the advancement of women, taking into account the deliberations at the thirty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women and the Fourth World Conference on Women and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions concerning institutional arrangements in the United Nations system for the advancement of women;

"6. Recommends to the General Assembly to take a final decision on the proposed merger of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the United Nations Development Fund for Women at its fiftieth session, in view of the recommendations of the Economic and Social Council and the deliberations at the Commission on the Status of Women and the Fourth World Conference on Women concerning the institutional arrangements in the United Nations system for the advancement of women."

The PRESIDENT asked whether the Council was ready to adopt the text at the current meeting or whether it preferred to wait until the following day when it would have the amended text in writing.

Mr. STOBY (Director, Division for Policy Coordination and Economic and Social Council Affairs) said that action should be postponed until the following day since a report was being requested of the Secretary-General and the latter had not been consulted on the matter.

Mr. AHMIA (Observer for Algeria), supported by Mr. FERNANDEZ-PALACIOS (Cuba) and Mr. CHAVES (Observer for Kyrgyzstan) said that the Council was an intergovernmental forum and that he should take action on the draft resolution at the current meeting.

Mr. NERVIK (Norway) said that a decision should be postponed until the following day.

Draft resolution E/1994/L.50, as orally amended, was adopted.

Mr. STOBY (Director, Division for Policy Coordination and Economic and Social Council Affairs) said that he had not been seeking to delay a political decision by Member States. It was simply that if the Secretary-General was to be to take action, he should be consulted first, as the information requested might already be available.

Mr. FITSCHEN (Germany), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the latter appreciated that the sponsors of the draft resolution had taken most of its concerns into account, but felt that the extensive consultations held with the Secretariat were not reflected in the text. It would have welcomed earlier and more comprehensive documentation.

The fact that it was possible to arrive at a consensus text on that topic, however, proved that all delegations were ready to discuss the substance of the matter in a non-confrontational way because of their common goal of strengthening the work of the United Nations for the advancement of women. The Union noted with satisfaction that the draft resolution set out a clear procedure and time-frame for further discussion, ensuring that, by the fiftieth session, the General Assembly would have all the information necessary to take the final decision.

The meeting rose at 4.55 p.m.